



Department of Justice

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JURY DETERMINES LIFE SENTENCE FOR COLUMBUS MAN CONVICTED OF KIDNAPPING AND MURDERING DAUGHTER

COLUMBUS - A United States District Court jury here today determined that John Richard Mayhew, Jr., age 37, of Columbus will receive a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole as punishment for kidnapping his daughter, transporting her across state lines and killing her on August 9, 2003.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Stanley J. Borgia, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; Columbus Police Chief James G. Jackson; and Christopher Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives announced the jury's decision handed down today before United States District Judge Algenon S. Marbley. Judge Marbley will set a date for a formal sentencing following a pre-sentence investigation.

Jurors convicted Mayhew on August 24, 2005 at the end of a trial that began on August 1, 2005. Jurors found that Mayhew kidnapped his daughter in Columbus on August 7, 2003. Two days later, after traveling with her through ten states, he killed her in West Virginia.

The jury also convicted Mayhew of being a felon and transporting a firearm in interstate commerce, transporting an explosive across state lines with the knowledge that it would be used to kill, injure or intimidate others, possessing an unregistered firearm, possessing a firearm without a serial number, interstate domestic violence, and use of a firearm in a crime of violence.

"This crime destroyed the lives and families of the victims in a way that cannot be measured or repaired," Lockhart said. "An exhaustive and thorough investigation by agents and officers in several states built a solid case."

West Virginia law enforcement officers arrested Mayhew on August 9, 2003. A Greenbrier County Sheriff's deputy stopped Mayhew for a traffic violation. Mayhew shot the deputy and fled. West Virginia state police later caught Mayhew and stopped his car. Mayhew then shot his daughter and himself.

Lockhart commended the investigative efforts of the FBI, Columbus Police, ATF and state and local law enforcement agencies in West Virginia. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys David DeVillers and Salvador Dominguez who prosecuted the case.

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